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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/815,318	03/22/2001	Stanley Philip Cason	END9 2000 0166 US1	4660

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EXAMINER
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TRUONG, LAN DAI T

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2143

DATE MAILED: 11/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/815,318	<b>Applicant(s)</b> CASON ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> lan dai thi truong	<b>Art Unit</b> 2143	

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 03 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 05 August 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-15 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 22 March 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)             | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)    | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

### **DETAILED ACTION**

1. This action is response to communications: application, filed 10/23/2001; amendment filed 08/05/2005. Claims 1-15 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 8, 13 are amended.

### **Response to Arguments**

2. Applicant's argument filed 08/05/2005 has been fully considered and they are persuasive.

### **Claim rejections-35 USC § 103**

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

**1) Claims 1-3, 8, 13-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being un-patentable over Cirulli et al. (U.S. 2002/0138281) in view of Burton et al. (2002/0055878)**

#### **Regarding to claims 1, 8, 13, 15, which is exemplary with claims 9, 10:**

Cirulli discloses the invention substantially as claimed, including a method, apparatus and system, which can be implemented in a computer hardware or software code for a user authorized by a customer company to access services provided by an enterprise, comprising:

Preparing for each new said user a profile entry including a user identifier and a company group identifier: (Cirulli discloses a enterprise procurement services system is

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controlled by the correlations between a user profiles and a resource profiles specifying for each user and resource the applicable company group. Cirulli discloses the user needs to “log on” which is shared functionality with “providing user identifier” to access user profile associated with a company group. Although Cirulli does not explicitly disclose the user profile includes the user identifier and a company group identifier; however the association between the user identifier and the company group identifier is deemed to be inherent to the Cirulli’s system: abstract, lines 1-11; figure 12, items 450, 255, 243, 451, 248, 452, 249, 242; page 2, left column, lines 37-43; page 4, left column, lines 1-4, 46-67, right column, lines 1-7, 27-33)

Responsive to access by said authorized user, obtaining profile entry for said authorized user: (Cirulli discloses the user needs to log on to access user profile associated with a company group, this process is shared functionality with “responsive to access by said authorized user”: page 4, left column, lines 1-4)

Each company group of a plurality of distinct company groups including one or more related companies with use the same accounting codes and procedures, with accounting codes and procedures that vary between company group: (Cirulli discloses companies having “common ownership” which is equivalent to “related companies”, and therefore “similar accounting systems” which is equivalent to “same accounting codes”, are grouped into a shared contract company group: page 2, right column, lines 29-38; page 4, left column, lines 44-57)

Responsive to user selection of a said location description, populating to said profile entry the corresponding company code and location code: (Cirulli discloses the correlations between company group code, company code and location: figure 9, items 40, 481, 482, 483)

However, Cirulli does not explicitly disclose Responsive to said profile entry not including company code and location indicia, displaying to said user descriptions of locations for said company group

Burton discloses a method for on-line ordering suppliers. In particular, Burton discloses a method of categorizing suppliers using geographic criteria, the purchaser can perform searching on supplier information, see (Burton: abstract, lines 1-6; page 1, right column, lines 19-23)

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Burton's ideas of searching supplier information by using supplier's geographic criteria with Cirulli's system in order to place orders, preprocess supplier information using geographic information, see (abstract, lines 1-6)

**In regarding to claims 2 and 14, those are exemplary with claim 3**

Merging said files into a company group file of authorized users: ("users" is equivalent "files" are merged into company group file: figure 7, items 243, 242, 451, 452)

Responsive to a request from a requester to access said services, reading said user profile entry for said requester: ("requester browser" represents to "a requester", "user profile table" represents to "user profile entry: figure 8, items 46, 384)

On a periodic basis, receiving from each said customer company within a company group file containing a list of all employees authorized by a company to use said services: (Cirulli discloses each company has its own authorized user for access procurement service: page 2, lines 32-43; figure 1 items 241, 248, 249, 255, 244; figure 7, items 450, 304, 42)

With reference to said company group file, building a user profile entry for each new said authorized user, said user profile entry including company group indicia but not including

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accounting code indicia not provided by said customer company; said accounting code indicia including company code and location code indicia: (“new employee profile build application” which is shared functionality with “building a user profile entry for each new said authorized user.” Each user profile includes “company group” which is equivalent to “company group indicia:” figure 9, items 460, 481, 482; figure 8, item 382)

Responsive to user selection of a code indicia description, populating to said profile entry corresponding accounting code indicia; said accounting code indicia including company code and location code indicia: (each new user profile includes “company group” which is equivalent to “company group indicia:” figure 9, items 460, 481, 482; figure 8, item 382)

Merging said files into a merged file in a hub server within a customer system;  
Transmitting said merged file to a staging table within an enterprise system server: (figure 8, items 59a, 60, 52, 388)

However, Cirulli does not explicitly disclose responsive to said profile entry not including said accounting code indicia for said requester, displaying to said requester descriptions of code indicia for said company group

However, Cirulli does not explicitly disclose Responsive to said profile entry not including company code and location indicia, displaying to said user descriptions of locations for said company group

Burton discloses a method for on-line ordering suppliers. In particular, Burton discloses a method of categorizing suppliers using geographic criteria, the purchaser can perform searching on supplier information, see (Burton: abstract, lines 1-6; page 1, right column, lines 19-23)

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Burton's ideas of searching supplier information by using supplier's geographic criteria with Cirulli's system in order to place orders, preprocess supplier information using geographic information, see (abstract, lines 1-6)

**2) Claims 5 and 11-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being un-patentable over Cirulli – Burton in view of Arledge et al. (U.S. 6,535,294)**

**Regarding to claims 5 and 11:**

Building a plant code table including for each company code and location code combination associated with a company group a requester intelligible location Description: (figure 8, item 386)

However, Cirulli – Burton does not explicitly disclose displaying said requester intelligible location descriptions associated with said company group in a selection list to said requester when said accounting indicia is not included said user profile for said requester

Arledge disclosed a system for preparing customized printed products over a communication network. Arledge taught that a new user is requested to identify "location of state and country" which is equivalent to "locations" of "the particular franchised retail store" which is equivalent to "a company belongs to company group", and the information about locations of company group is recorded into customer data as a part of new user's profile. Arledge disclosed that the new end-user uses "location popup list" for displaying and selecting the information to identify the location of state and country of particular franchised retail store, so this process is share functionality with "responsive to said profile entry not including company code and

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location indicia, display to said user description of locations for said company group” see (Arledge: column 13, lines 54-67; column 14, lines1-44).

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Arledge’s ideas of displaying a popup list of location of state and country of particular franchised retail store with Cirulli - Burton’s system in order to create new user profile which contain information about locations and franchised retail store as default, see (Arledge: column 13, lines 54-67; column 14, lines1-44)

**Regarding to claim 12:**

Said description of said accounting indicia being text comprehensible to said user

Although Arledge does not explicitly disclose that the location of the state and country of the particular franchised being text comprehensible to use; however, this feature is deemed to be inherent to the Arledge system as (column 13, lines 64-67; column 14, lines 1-15), new user select location of state and country for particular franchised retail store from popup list. The Arledge system would be inoperative if location of state and country for particular franchised retail store from popup list is not text comprehensible to user.

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Arledge’s ideas of displaying a popup list of location of state and country of particular franchised retail store with Cirulli - Burton’s system in order to create new user profile which contain information about locations and franchised retail store as default, see (Arledge: column 13, lines 54-67; column 14, lines1-44)

**3) Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as un-patentable over Cirulli – Burton - Arledge and further in view of Schweitzer et al (U.S 6,418,467)**

**Regarding to claim 6:**

“Said transmitting step occurring through a firewall, and said displaying step occurring through a secure network”

However Schweitzer disclosed methods of record merging and sending them through firewall, see (Schweitzer: column 13, lines 66-67; column 14, lines 14-20)

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Schweitzer s ideas of sending merging file through firewall with Cirulli – Burton -Arledge’s system in order to create new user profile which contain information about locations and franchised retail store as default, see (Schweitzer: column 13, lines 66-67; column 14, lines 14-20)

**4) Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being un-patentable over Cirulli – Burton -Arledge - Schweitzer and further in view of Callanan (U.S 6,185,545)**

**Regarding to claim 7:**

“Said secure network being a frame relay network”

However Callanan disclose the connection between the payment system and customer can be a Frame Relay network or more some other secure link, see (Callanan: column 7, lines 58-61).

It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was make to modify “network traffic” of Schweitzer to “secure link” between the

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payment system and customer can be a Frame Relay network is taught in Callanan. The combination would have been obvious because one of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to provide secure data transmitting through network, see (Callanan: column 7, lines 58-61).

Thus, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine Schweitzer's ideas of using Frame Relay network with Cirulli – Burton -Arledge - Schweitzer's system in order to provide secure data transmitting through network, see (Callanan: column 7, lines 58-61).

### **Conclusions**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to lan dai thi truong whose telephone number is 571-272-7959. The examiner can normally be reached on monday- friday from 8:30am to 5:00 pm.


If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Wiley can be reached on (571) 272-3923. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Lan Dai Thi Truong  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2143

Ldt  
10/26/2005



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